

**In the Claims**

1. (Previously presented) In a communication system, a protection circuit comprising:

first and second diodes and first and second resistors connected in series between first and second power supply terminals; and

third and fourth diodes and third and fourth resistors connected in series between the first and second power supply terminals;

wherein the first and second diodes form an input terminal at their connection and the third and fourth diodes form an output terminal at their connection.

2. (Previously presented) The protection circuit of claim 1, further comprising:  
a first capacitor having an input coupled between said first resistor and said first diode, and an output coupled between said third resistor and said third diode; and

a second capacitor having an input coupled between said second diode and said second resistor, and an output coupled between said fourth diode and said fourth resistor.

3. (Previously presented) The protection circuit of claim 2, further comprising:  
a third capacitor having an input for coupling to an antenna/transmitter, and an output coupled to said input terminal; and

a fourth capacitor having an output for coupling to a receiver, and an input coupled to said output terminal.

4. (Previously presented) The protection circuit of claim 1, wherein the first and third resistors connect to the first power supply terminal, and the second and fourth resistors connect to the second power supply terminal.

5. (Previously presented) The protection circuit of claim 1, wherein the first and third resistors have substantially the same value, and the second and fourth resistors have substantially the same value.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The circuit of claim 1, wherein at least one of the resistors is a current source.

8. (Currently amended) A communication system having a transmit/receive protection circuit with first and second strings of series connected diodes; wherein the strings are independently controllable to carry predetermined independent DC currents.

9. (Original) The circuit according to claim 8, wherein the diodes in the first string connect together at an input node and the diodes in the second string connect together at an output node, and the first and second strings independently couple to first and second power supply terminals.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The circuit according to claim 8, wherein the first and second strings have at least one AC coupling path therebetween.

12. (Original) A communication system comprising:

a first resistor and a second resistor for coupling to a first power supply terminal;

a third resistor for coupling to a second power supply terminal;

a first diode and a second diode connected in series between said first resistor and said third resistor wherein said first diode and said second diode form an input terminal at their connection;

a third diode and a fourth diode connected in series between said second resistor and said third resistor, wherein said third diode and said fourth diode form an output terminal at their connection; and

a first coupling capacitor having a first end coupled between said first resistor and said first diode, and a second end coupled between said second resistor and said third diode.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein said third resistor comprises a fourth resistor and a fifth resistor, said fourth resistor coupled in series between said second diode and said second power supply terminal, and said fifth resistor coupled in series between said fourth diode and said second power supply terminal; and the system further comprising a second coupling capacitor having a first end coupled between said fourth resistor and said second diode, and a second end coupled between said fifth resistor and said fourth diode.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein at least one of the resistors is a current source.

15. (Original) A communication system comprising  
a first resistor coupled to a first power supply terminal;  
a first diode and a second diode coupled in series with said first resistor, wherein said first diode and said second diode form an output terminal at their connection;  
a second resistor and a third resistor coupled in series with said first diode and said second diode;

a third diode and a fourth diode coupled in series with said third resistor and said fourth resistor, wherein said third diode and said fourth diode form an input terminal at their connection;

a fourth resistor coupled in series between said fourth diode and a second power supply terminal;

a first coupling capacitor having a first end coupled between said first resistor and said first diode, and a second end coupled between said third resistor and said third diode;

a second coupling capacitor having a first end coupled between said second resistor and said second diode, and a second end coupled between said fourth resistor and said fourth diode.

a bypass capacitor having a first end coupled between said second resistor and said third resistor and a second end coupled to said second power supply terminal.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising an input capacitor having an input for coupling to an analog signal and an output coupled to said input terminal, said input capacitor for passing AC signals while preventing the flow of DC currents.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, further comprising an output capacitor having an output and an input coupled to said output terminal.

18. (Previously presented) In a communications system, a protection circuit including first, second, and third resistors, said protection circuit further comprising:

first and second diodes connected in series with said first and third resistors between first and second power supply terminals; and

third and fourth diodes connected in series with said second and third resistors between the first and second power supply terminals;

wherein the first and second diodes form an input terminal at their connection and the third and fourth diodes form an output terminal at their connection.

19. (Currently amended) A communications system having a transmit/receive protection circuit with first and second strings of series connected diodes; wherein the strings are coupled in series and are independently controllable to carry substantially the same DC current therein.